



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # **306-2010**

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LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager *JMG for info*

DATE: November 17, 2010

SUBJECT: FDOT Port of Miami Tunnel Project (POMT), SR 112/I-195 Roadway Project, and Venetian Causeway Streetscape Project

The purpose of this Letter to Commission (LTC) is to provide you with an update on the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Six Port of Miami Tunnel (POMT) Project, and other upcoming FDOT and Miami-Dade County (County) construction projects that may impact vehicular access to Miami Beach's roadways.

POMT Project

FDOT has rescheduled the shifting of the three (3) eastbound travel lanes on the MacArthur Causeway to Wednesday, November 17, 2010 beginning at 7:00 p.m. (Attachment 1). This shifting will take approximately twelve (12) hours to complete and is required in order to widen the median to accommodate for the construction of the tunnel. During the lane shifting work, the eastbound MacArthur Causeway will be open to traffic at all times; however, one (1) to two (2) travel lanes will be closed intermittently during the course of this work. For reference, Attachment 2 provides an aerial of the existing conditions of the project location.

City staff received assurance from the POMT contractor that all measures have been taken to ensure traffic flows smoothly during the lane shifting work and that work will be completed by Thursday, November 18, 2010 at 7:00 a.m. at which time three (3) full lanes will be opened to traffic entering the beach. Additionally, FDOT has coordinated with the Special Events Office and does not anticipate impacts to any major events in the area.

SR 112 / I-195 Roadway Project

On Monday, November 15, 2010, FDOT will be starting construction on State Road 112 (SR 112) / Interstate 195 (I-195), from NW 10th Avenue to Biscayne Bay (Attachment 3). The roadway improvements will include the following: replacing the curb and guardrail in the median with a concrete barrier wall; widening the bridge and other bridge upgrades; widening the roadway at several locations; building a retaining wall system; adding eastbound/westbound auxiliary lanes from I-95 to North Miami Avenue; rebuilding the North Miami Avenue exit ramp; replacing sections of the communications system (ITS); installing new signs and traffic signals; landscaping; and improving the riding surface of the road.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan for the I-195 Roadway Project will require the following closures that will impact Miami Beach:

1. Proposed closure of the southbound I-95 exit ramp to eastbound SR 112 / I-195. This closure is scheduled for Friday, November 19, 2010 through Tuesday, November 23, 2010. This closure was coordinated with the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments and the Special Events Office.

2. Proposed closure of the northbound I-95 exit ramp to eastbound SR 112 / I-195. This closure is tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 29, 2010 through Wednesday, December 1, 2010. These dates and times will be confirmed in coordination with the City.
3. Proposed closure of the westbound I-195 exit ramp to northbound I-95. This closure is tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 6, 2010 through Thursday, December 9, 2010. These dates and times will be confirmed in coordination with the City.
4. Proposed full closure for one (1) night only for the installation of ITS signs. This would occur during the end of the project.
5. Intermittent lane closures will occur throughout the project. FDOT will maintain two (2) travel lanes in each direction for the majority of the time. Travel lane reductions to one (1) travel lane would be coordinated well in advance with the City.

The City is currently working with FDOT to look at minimizing the impacts associated with this closure.

Venetian Causeway Streetscape Project

In January 2011, the County will be starting construction on a streetscape project on the Venetian Causeway, from Biscayne Island in Miami to Belle Isle in Miami Beach (Attachment 4). Streetscape improvements include the following: roadway improvements, sidewalks, curb & gutter, raised landscaped median, continuous bike lanes, parallel parking, drainage improvements, pavement markings & signing, traffic signalization, decorative roadway lighting, island entry, signs and tree planting.

The MOT for the Venetian Causeway Streetscape Project requires vehicular traffic to be maintained in both directions for the entire project. For a limited period of time, outfall construction at the bridge approaches may require the Contractor to limit traffic to a bi-directional one (1) lane road. Flagmen would be used to direct traffic during these types of closures. The County has confirmed that they will coordinate any anticipated closures with the City ahead of time.

Project Coordination

City staff will be coordinating the MOT plans for all three (3) projects with both FDOT and the County. A coordination meeting with FDOT and the County has been scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2010. City staff will be closely coordinating all activities with FDOT, the County, and their contractors during these construction projects, and will keep you informed on all aspects.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Attachment:

1. POMT Press Release
2. Project Location Aerial
3. SR 112 / I-195 Roadway Project
4. Venetian Causeway Streetscape Project


JMG/JSG/FHB/FJ/RS/CB



Florida Department of Transportation

CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

STEPHANIE KOPELOUSOS
SECRETARY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Nov. 10, 2010

Contact: Maribel Lena
305-470-5349

Nighttime Traffic Shift on Eastbound MacArthur Causeway from the east end of MacArthur Causeway Bridge to west of Fountain Street Rescheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 17 to Thursday, Nov. 18

MIAMI — On Wednesday, Nov. 17, the contractor for the Port of Miami Tunnel Project will shift all eastbound travel lanes on MacArthur Causeway to the south onto the new permanent roadway layout from the east end of MacArthur Causeway Bridge to west of Fountain Street.

In order to safely complete the shift, the contractor will close one travel lane going east beginning at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 17 to 7 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 18. The second travel lane will close between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. One travel lane will remain open at all times. Once the shift is complete, three travel lanes will go east in the southern portion of the MacArthur Causeway and three travel lanes will go west in the northern portion with a work zone set up in the middle of the roadway. Please note that this work was originally scheduled for Monday, Nov. 15 to Tuesday, Nov. 16. This traffic shift will allow the contractor to accommodate the construction of the future tunnel entrance in the MacArthur Causeway median. **Please note that this schedule may change due to bad weather or other unforeseen conditions.**

The project includes roadway improvements on Watson and Dodge Islands, MacArthur Causeway Bridge widening and a tunnel under Government Cut. The tunnel includes twin tubes, each 3,900 feet long and 43 feet in diameter, will reach a depth of 120 feet below the water and is expected to be open to traffic by 2014. The project will improve access to and from the Port of Miami, serving as a dedicated roadway connector linking the Port with the MacArthur Causeway (State Road A1A) and I-395.

For more information about the Port of Miami Tunnel Project, please contact Construction Public Information Specialist Liz Fernandez at 305-219-9039; Project Administrator Pablo Vasquez at 786-258-0710; Resident Engineer Felix Vergara, P.E., at 954-325-1022; or go to www.portofmiamitunnel.com

Drivers are encouraged to call 511 before they drive or log on to www.fl511.com to get real-time traffic and lane closure information. FDOT reminds drivers that wearing a safety belt is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes. Please drive cautiously in work zones.

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Attachment 1





MacArthur Causeway Aerial (9-27-10)



***Watson Island – New Parrot Jungle Trail
South Side of MacArthur Causeway (9-27-10)***

State Road 112/I-195 Roadway Project

From S.R. 9A/I-95/NW 10 Avenue to Biscayne Bay

FIN # 405578-1-52-01

November 2010



Project Overview:

On Monday, Nov. 8, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is scheduled to begin a roadway project along State Road (S.R.) 112/I-195 from S.R. 9A/I-95/NW 10 Avenue to Biscayne Bay. This project will last about 19 months and cost an estimated \$19.9 million.

This Project Includes:

- Replacing the curb and guardrail in the median with a concrete barrier wall
- Widening the bridges, upgrading the bridge railings and adding barrier walls along the roadway
- Widening the roadway at several locations
- Building a retaining wall system
- Adding eastbound and westbound auxiliary lanes from I-95 to North Miami Avenue
- Rebuilding the North Miami Avenue exit ramp
- Replacing sections of the communications system (ITS)
- Installing new signs and traffic signals
- Relocating and adding landscaping
- Improving the riding surface of the road

Traffic Flow:

To complete this work safely, it will be necessary to close traffic lanes at times. Tasks will be done in stages to lessen the effects of construction. Lane closures will be scheduled to avoid special community events. At least one lane will be open at all times.

Always Put

Safety First:

For your safety and the safety of others, please use caution when driving, walking or biking around any construction zone.

Wearing a safety belt is the single most effective way to protect people and reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes.

The department takes steps to reduce construction effects, but you might experience the following around the work site:

- Side street, traffic lane and sidewalk closures
- Increased dust and noise
- Workers and equipment moving around the area

Helpful Tips:

- Allow extra time to reach your destination
- Obey all posted signs and speed limits
- Watch for signs with information about upcoming work and traffic conditions

Construction Zone:

S.R. 112/I-195
From S.R. 9A/I-95/NW 10 Avenue
to Biscayne Bay

Please note that this schedule could change due to bad weather or other unexpected conditions.

For more information, please contact Project Administrator Mauricio Arze at 305-461-5484, ext. 7323, or Public Information Specialist Monica Diaz at 305-215-9777 or Monica@PublicInvolvement.com.



Please visit our website at: www.fdotmiamidade.com

For real-time traffic information dial 511 or visit: fl511.com

Florida Department of Transportation | District Six Construction Office
1000 NW 111 Street | Miami, FL 33172





Pardon our dust...



Fact Sheet

**Miami-Dade County
Public Works Department
Project No. 20100522**

Venetian Causeway Streetscape Improvements

Project Description:

The Venetian Causeway provides a major link between the City of Miami and the City of Miami Beach, as well as access for residents of the six islands along the Causeway. The limits of the 1.3 mile streetscape improvements project are from Biscayne Island in Miami to Belle Isle in Miami Beach. The project is within Miami-Dade County Commission Districts 3 and 4. The scope of work includes roadway improvements, sidewalks, curb & gutter, raised landscaped median, continuous bike lanes, parallel parking, drainage improvements, pavement markings & signing, traffic signalization, decorative roadway lighting, island entry signs and tree planting.

Construction Schedule:

Construction for this project is anticipated to commence in January 2011 and be completed by January 2012*. All work will be carried out on weekdays between the hours of 7 am and 6 pm. There will be no work on Saturdays or Sundays.

*The Construction Schedule above is weather permitting.

Methodology and Efforts:

All efforts will be made to minimize the impacts of the construction activities on residents of the area, businesses surrounding the project and the motoring public. Other than short closures of one traffic lane at bridge approaches where outfall structures are to be constructed, all vehicular traffic will be maintained in both directions during the entire project. Local residents will be allowed to access their homes and businesses from both sides of the Causeway. Residents will be notified in advance of any project-related activity that might effect access to individual driveways.

Helpful tips to guide you safely through roadway construction:

- Seek alternate routes whenever possible
- Give yourself a little extra time to reach your destination
- Drive the posted speed limit – reduced speed limits are strictly enforced!
- Obey all signs posted within the construction zone

If you have any questions or require additional information please contact Aviva Baer, Public Information Officer for the project at 305-573-4455, e-mail abaer@communicatz.com or Delfin Molins, E.I., Public Information Officer Miami-Dade Public Works Department at 305-375-1682, e-mail delfin@miamidade.gov; or Enrique Gonzalez, Construction Quality Assurance at 305-375-2550, e-mail eeg@miamidade.gov.



Thank you for your patience!

